

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

 X This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

1) (original) A method of labelling a succession of containers (2); the method comprising the following steps:

- identifying each container (2) to assign to the container (2) one of a number of possible types before the container (2) is fed along a labelling path (P);
- feeding each container (2) along the labelling path (P) through a number of labelling stations (17), each for applying a respective label (7) to a container (2) travelling through the labelling station (17);
- assigning a category of containers (2) to each labelling station (17);
- and only activating each labelling station (17) to apply the label (7) to the container (2) travelling through the labelling station (17) if the container (2) falls within the category of containers (2) assigned to the labelling station (17);

the method being characterized by the fact that each container (2) is identified only on the basis of the

physical features of the container (2) or only by processing information from operating machines (3) located upstream from the labelling path (P); each labelling station (17) being loaded with a same type of pre-printed labels (7) and applying to the relevant containers (2) always the same pre-printed label (7) in a given same position.

2) (original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each container (2) is identified by feeding the container (2) through a recognition station (16) located upstream from the labelling stations (17) along the labelling path (P) and having at least one sensor (29) for identifying the container (2).

3) (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein each container (2) is identified on the basis of the shape of the container (2).

4) (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein each container (2) is identified on the basis of the size of the container (2).

5) (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein each container (2) is identified on the basis of the colour of the container (2).

6) (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein each labelling station (17) comprises a respective guide; and a respective labelling device (26), which is moved along the guide to adapt its position as a function of the shape and size of the containers (2) with respect to a conveyor (15) for feeding each container (2) along the labelling path (P).

7) (original) A machine for labelling a succession of
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containers (2); the machine comprising a conveyor (15) for feeding each container (2) along a labelling path (P), a number of labelling stations (17), each located along the labelling path (P) and for applying a respective label (7) to a container (2) travelling through the labelling station (17), and a recognition device (28) for identifying each container (2) and assigning to the container (2) one of a number of possible types before the container (2) is fed along the labelling path (P); each labelling station (17) comprising respective control means (30) for memorizing a category of containers (2) assigned to the labelling station (17), and which only activate the respective labelling station (17) to apply the label (7) to the container (2) travelling through the labelling station (17) if the container (2) falls within the category of containers (2) assigned to the labelling station (17); the machine (5) being characterized by the fact that recognition device (28) is able to identify each container (2) only on the basis of the physical features of the container (2) or only by processing information from operating machines (3) located upstream from the labelling path (P); each labelling station (17) being loaded with a same type of pre-printed labels (7) and being able to apply to the relevant containers (2) always the same pre-printed label (7) in a given same position.

8) (original) A machine as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the recognition device (28) comprises a recognition station (16) located upstream from the labelling stations (17) along the labelling path (P) and having at least one sensor (29) for identifying the

container (2).

9) (original) A machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the sensor (29) identifies each container (2) on the basis of the shape of the container (2).

10) (original) A machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the sensor (29) identifies each container (2) on the basis of the size of the container (2).

11) (original) A machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the sensor (29) identifies each container (2) on the basis of the colour of the container (2).

12) (currently amended) A machine as claimed in ~~one of Claims 7 to 11~~, wherein the conveyor (15) comprises a carousel conveyor (20) with a vertical axis (21).

13) (currently amended) A machine as claimed in ~~one of Claims 7 to 12~~, wherein each labelling station (17) comprises a respective guide; and a respective labelling device (26), which is mounted to move along the guide to adapt its position with respect to the conveyor (15) as a function of the shape and size of the containers (2).